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(71) Applicant(s)
    Apple Computer, Inc.
    (Incorporated in USA - California)
    1 Infinite Loop, MS 3-PAT, Cupertino,
    CA 95014, United States of America

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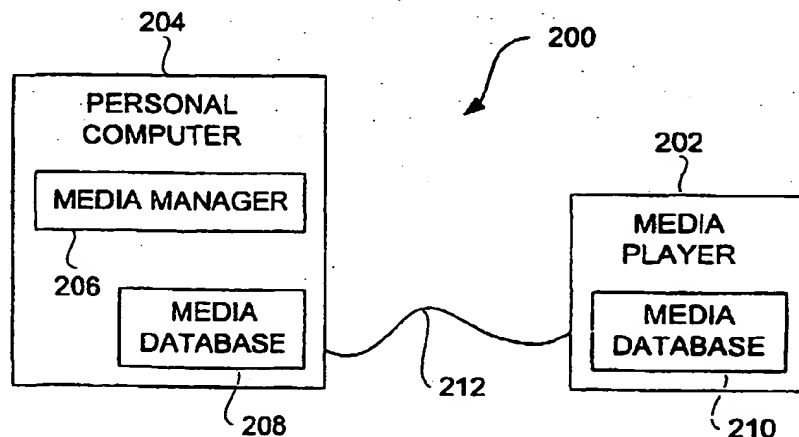   STEINBERG G: "SONICBLUE RIO CAR PRODUCT
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(54) Abstract Title
    Intelligent interaction between media player and host computer

(57)   Improved techniques for interaction between a host computer (e.g., personal computer) and a media player are disclosed. According to one aspect, interaction between a host computer and a media player, such as automatic synchronization of media contents stored on a media player with media contents stored on a host computer, can be restricted. In one implementation, a given media player is able to automatically interact only with a designated host computer. According to another aspect, synchronization can be automatically initiated and performed upon connection of a data link between the media player and the host computer. According to still another aspect, synchronization is able to be achieved with a reduced amount of data transfer between the host computer and the media device. According to yet another aspect, management of media items residing on a media player can be performed at and by a host computer for the media player. According to still yet another aspect, media content can be played by a media player in accordance with quality settings established for the media content at the host computer. In one implementation, the quality settings can be established for the media content on a media item by media item basis.

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This international application has entered the national phase early.

(72) Inventor(s)
      Jeffrey L. Robbin
      David Heller

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
      Urquhart-Dykes & Lord
      8th Floor, Tower House, Merrion Way,
      LEEDS, LS2 8PA, United Kingdom